

The POINT News

News for Virginia MRC Units & EP&R

September 14, 2009

VIRGINIA



MRC Shines at Alexandria Flu Exercise on 9/11

On September 11th, Secretary Katherine Sebelius and Assistant Secretary Dr. Howard Koh of the Department of Health and Human Services, honored the MRC by attending Alexandria health department's seasonal flu vaccination exercise.

In 2 hours, 585 seasonal flu vaccinations were administered to school staff, first responders, city officials, community members, volunteers, and state and national public health officials.



60 staff members consisting of Alexandria health department and MRC, Arlington MRC, Rap-Rap MRC, Peninsula MRC, VDH EP&R, MRC and USPHS worked together to efficiently operate the clinic. (Above Dr. Kelly Woodard, Incident Commander briefs the staff before starting the clinic.)

The feedback that Amy Tarte, Alexandria MRC Coordinator, received from Barbara Richards, from FDA at DHHS, truly reflects the success of the event. *"I just wanted to commend you on one of the most efficiently organized events I have EVER attended today. Your members were attentive to every detail; friendly, supportive and comforting to those who came for their flu vaccines; and wonderfully positive with each other and with our crew. We were so impressed! Thank you for ensuring that everything went so smoothly today - you and the other volunteers were a joy to observe..."*

TC Williams High School in Alexandria hosted the clinic in their gymnasium during school hours. Not only was the space and access perfect for the exercise, but their colors match the MRC logo! The MRC program office, Alexandria MRC and Citizen Corps provided program and preparedness information at the exit area. USPHS officers assisted with staffing exit flow.



On the Calendar

September 15th at 11:59 pm— NACCHO CBA Grant DUE

October 7th, 10 am - 12pm:
VA MRC State Meeting via polycom

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!

I am amazed.

In less than 3 weeks the Alexandria HD and MRC with support from other MRC units, the MRC program office and VDH coordinated and conducted an exceptional event that perfectly demonstrated the value of utilizing MRC volunteers. A well deserving light of recognition is now shining brightly on the MRC program at the national level.

I am so proud to be a part of a great MRC family!

Jennifer

Photos unless otherwise noted were taken by Pierre Paret, Alexandria Citizen Corps Council Member and CERT volunteer. Thank You!

Secretary Sebelius receives flu shot from Alex MRC



Above Dr. Howard Koh, Ast. Secretary for DHHS and Boston MRC volunteer, Dr. Karen Remley, State Health Commissioner, Secretary Katherine Sebelius, and Claudia Vento, Rappahannock—Rapidan MRC Coordinator discuss the Staff Check-in process and MRC volunteer support of emergency preparedness and public health activities.

After walking thru the line and talking to clients Secretary Sebelius, Ast. Secretary Koh and Dr. Remley all received their flu shots. Pictured right is Michelle Adams RN, Alexandria MRC, giving Secretary Sebelius her shot. This picture is also on the front page of www.flu.gov underneath the Secretary's Call to Action video encouraging health-care professionals to join the Medical Reserve Corps!



Above Amanda O'Brien, RN and Alexandria MRC volunteer gives Capt. Robert Tosatto, Director of the MRC program, his flu shot. He and other staff members from OCVMRC, USPHS and NACCHO attended the event and provided staffing support. (Photo by M. T. Harmon, the Corporation on National and Community Service).

September 11th was officially recognized as the National Day for Service and Remembrance. During Dr. Koh's speech he reminded us that the MRC was started because of 9-11 and the need to coordinate medical volunteers for emergency response. This event and the MRC is highlighted on [serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov/stories_detail.asp?tbl_servestories_id=226). Read and see more at http://www.serve.gov/stories_detail.asp?tbl_servestories_id=226. The MRC is an example of the community care and resiliency that was felt on the days following September 11th.



Andy Duncan, Alexandria MRC volunteer (pictured left) staffed the forms review table and had the honor of speaking on behalf of MRC volunteers and introducing Ast. Secretary Dr. Koh to the press.

At the end of the day everyone gathered on the bleachers (pictured right) for a "Thank You" speech from Capt. Robert Tosatto, OCVMRC, and the exercise hot wash facilitated by Amy Tarte, MRC Coordinator, Cyndi Lake, Emergency Planner and Alan Whitehead Alexandria HD Pharmacist and Operations Chief.

HUGE Kudos to everyone involved in making this event a success!

